

Cudahy's 4th of July Committee Makes an Early Call for Volunteers

CUDAHY – (January 30, 2010) -- Escape our frigid January temperatures for a moment by thinking about summer – specifically Independence Day.

Cudahy's 4th of July Committee is already hard at work planning activities for the City's annual celebration, and the committee is putting out a call **now** for volunteers.

There are many volunteer opportunities including organizing parade units and games, stage management and cleanup.

This year's parade will be held Sunday, July 4th starting at noon. The theme for the celebration is "Hometown Heroes."

If you are interested in being an Independence Day volunteer, please contact Rachel Mosey, City of Cudahy Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at moseyr@ci.cudahy.wi.us or 755-6919.

CUDAHY ROLLS OUT THE WELCOME WAGON City Offering Big Incentives to Draw Small Businesses to Packard Avenue

CUDAHY – (January 21, 2010) – The City of Cudahy has put together an incentive program totaling thousands of dollars in an effort to attract unique, small businesses to Packard Avenue.

"Packard Avenue has long been known for its distinctive, independent retail and service businesses," said Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue. "But the reality is we have a lot of empty storefronts right now that we'd love to fill and we MUST fill."

The Welcome Wagon package allows business-owners to choose from grant, loans and incentive options that could add up to \$57,300. The options include:

- \$3,000 design grant
- \$25,000 matching construction grant
- \$10,000 lease buy-out
- Loans up to \$25,000 at 2% interest
- \$500 in moving assistance
- \$300 in business training
- \$2,500 for a grand opening celebration

Cudahy will award Welcome Wagon packages to the first five accepted applicants before July 31, 2010. The retailers must move into property along Packard between Cudahy and Holmes Avenues.

Lara Fritts, Director of Economic Development, says the City is keenly aware that times remain tough for small businesses.

"This program will give start-up or relocating retailers a leg-up if they come to Packard Avenue, and we are fully committed to helping them succeed over the long term," Fritts said. "These grants, loans and incentives will not only help new retailers open their doors in Cudahy, but also help them become more profitable and more educated business owners."

Landlords must apply for the incentive package along with their prospective tenants, to show that they are as committed as the City to helping these new retailers thrive. Among the program's requirements: leases must be at market rate with appropriate escalation clauses, to ensure that rents do not skyrocket.

Qualifying businesses must meet the 2010 Cudahy Comprehensive Plan and the 2009 Cudahy Market Analysis, and be approved by the Community Development Authority (CDA).

Mayor McCue says Cudahy has already made great strides toward improving the curb appeal and character of the downtown area.

Last summer the City launched its Façade Improvement Program, awarding up to \$28,000 in design and construction grants to help commercial business and property owners reinvest in existing properties.

The first ten Façade Improvement Grants went quickly. Ten additional grants are available.

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BOTTSFORD CAPE COD AWARDED THE 2009 VITALITY AWARD

CUDAHY – (January 11, 2009) – Homeowners of an unassuming cape cod built in 1928 are the winners of Cudahy's 2009 Vitality Award.

Corey and Terri Holland purchased the home located at 3706 East Bottsford Avenue in 1980.

"The Hollands have done an outstanding job of returning this older Cudahy home to its former glory," said 1st District Alderman Joseph Mikolajczak, who nominated them for the award. "Their renovations have not only improved the house but also the entire neighborhood."

That is the criteria for receiving the Vitality Award, which was first presented to a Cudahy homeowner in 2000.

Over the last 30 years the Hollands have made extensive improvements to both the exterior and the interior. They've redone all the outside trim and replaced the windows, given the base of the house the look of field stone and restored the front of the house to its original 1928 appearance. Inside, the Hollands have restored the oak trim and oak floors, among other projects.

"We live in a wonderful community," Corey Holland said. "We are all very supportive of each other and the work we do to improve our homes."

Mayor Ryan McCue says a kind of domino effect happens to a neighborhood when one homeowner remodels and revitalizes his or her property.

"It inspires others to take pride in their own properties," McCue said. "We applaud residents like the Hollands who value strong neighborhoods and the historic significance of Cudahy's beautiful, older homes."

The Hollands will receive the official Vitality Award plaque and resolution at a special town hall meeting in April. They say they look forward to spring when the snow melts and the flowers begin blooming, and the community can get a clear picture of the work they've done to their home.

"We truly enjoy and take pride in the improvements we've made," Corey said.

Past Vitality Award winners include:

2008 – 5133 South Lake Drive
2007 – 3702 East Layton Avenue
2006 – 3903 East Somers Avenue
2005 – 3810 East Allerton Avenue
2004 – 3806 East Van Norman Avenue
2003 – 3930 East Grange Avenue
2002 – 3842 East Ramsey Avenue
2001 – 3802 East Armour Avenue
2000 – 3755 East Plankinton Avenue

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